

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Robert G. Smith, DOB: 8/26/81, formerly a resident of the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation (LCO) in Sawyer County, Wisconsin, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Madison to 125 months in federal prison without parole based on his involvement with other members of the Latin King Nation in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine on the LCO Reservation. Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb ordered that this sentence run consecutive to the 13-year sentence Smith is presently serving for the murder of Cody Wade in Sawyer County in May 2002.

The proof at Smith's November 22, 2005 guilty plea hearing established that Smith became a member of the Latin Kings when he was approximately 12 years old. After leaving the Reservation for several years, he returned and rejoined the Latin Kings in early 2001. From that point until June 2002, he assisted the gang in selling powder and crack cocaine. Smith's involvement with the gang ended following his arrest for the Cody Wade murder.

In sentencing Smith, Chief Judge Crabb noted that his involvement in the Latin King drug conspiracy was of a shorter time period since it ended with his arrest for the

Wade murder in June 2002, but she stated that she believed Smith was a very dangerous person and that his criminal record of violence was frightening. She said she believed people near him would be at great risk when he is ultimately released from prison if he does not learn to control his anger.

Smith is the thirty-sixth defendant already sentenced as a result of this long-term investigation being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department. Four defendants--Gregorio Acosta Jr., Nicolas Acosta, Donald Fairbanks, and John Radermacher--are pending sentencing following guilty pleas. Four other defendants--Pedro Zamora, Jorge Barragan, Florentino Castillo, and Ernesto Estrada--are pending sentencing following their convictions after a jury trial in December 2005.

The prosecution of these cases has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

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